

Eagle's Nest Creek Culvert

HAER No. NY-157

Runs from western bank of Erie Canal

south of George Street to Whitehall Street north of Champlain
Canal Lock #2

Cohoes

Albany County

New York

HAER

NY

1-COHO,

5B-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER
NY,
1-COLO,
5B-

Eagle's Nest Creek Culvert

HAER No. NY-157

Location: Runs from inlet on western bank of enlarged Erie Canal, east 1,100 feet to outlet east of Whitehall Street, north of Champlain Canal Lock #2 Cohoes, Albany County, New York

Date of Construction: c. 1820 for easternmost section; after 1840 for remaining sections

Present Owner: City of Cohoes

Present Use: Serves as part of the Cohoes city storm sewer system

Significance: The culvert was constructed in sections at different periods of time to carry the flow of Eagle's Nest Creek under the "old" Erie Canal, the Champlain Canal, and the "new" or "enlarged" Erie Canal. It is significant as an intact nineteenth century structure associated with the Erie Canal.

Project Information: Construction of the Cohoes-Waterford Arterial, to be funded by the Federal Highway Administration, will require the extension of the culvert, so that it will pass under the arterial. A concrete storm sewer junction chamber will be built to enclose and preserve the eastern outlet portal of the culvert. Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, mitigative documentation was undertaken in 1983 by Frederick M. Howard of Greenman-Pedersen, Inc.

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The Eagle's Nest Creek Culvert runs 1,100 feet eastward from the western bank of the enlarged Erie Canal to Whitehall Street, north of Champlain Canal Lock #2. The culvert carries the flow of Eagle's Nest Creek under the Champlain Canal, the original Erie Canal, and the enlarged Erie Canal in Cohoes, New York. Structural evidence and nineteenth century maps suggest that the culvert was built in sections to accommodate the creek's flow, and was not joined into a single continuous structure until after 1879 when the final link connected the previously-built segments.

The accompanying map on page 3 indicates each period of construction. Sections of each segment are shown on page 4.

The oldest part of the culvert is apparently the part of section A running under the original Erie Canal. The canal was built between 1817 and 1823, dating that section of the culvert to the same period. The rest of section A, that is the part lying under the Champlain Canal to the eastern outlet, was either modified from an original 1817-1823 construction or built new circa 1859 when the Champlain Canal was shifted eastward from its original location. The configuration of the canal boundary line in this vicinity and some minor visual evidence support the latter conclusion.

The eastern outlet structure is composed of a stone arch headwall and adjacent wing walls built of dry-laid ashlar on a bedrock foundation.

The second portion of the culvert to be built was most probably the western section (E) which was constructed to enclose the creek in 1842, when the new enlarged Erie Canal was built.

Section B was probably built sometime before 1852 and then was modified in that year when the Albany-Northern Railroad was constructed. The culvert directly under the railroad line is composed of a brick arch supported on a stone foundation wall. The culvert is completely of stone masonry to either side of the railroad line and the brick arch appears to be a later addition.

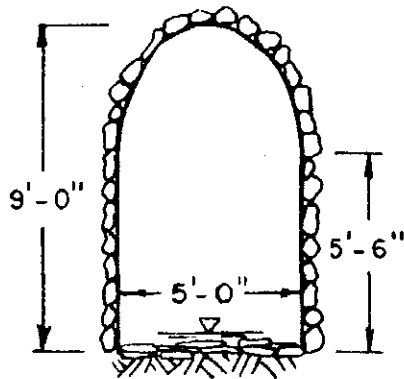
It is unclear when section C was built, but by 1879 the Galt & Hoy map of the area shows only section D remaining unenclosed.

The culvert is currently used as part of the city of Cohoes storm sewer system. The structural integrity of stonework and concrete sections of the culvert is good.



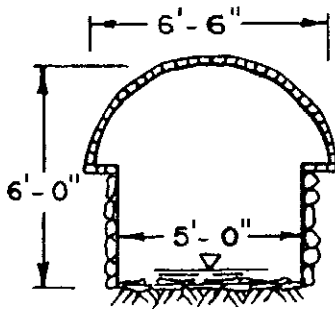
PIN.	SCALE	DATE	SHEET NO
1088.02	1" = 200'	JUNE 1983	8

(A)



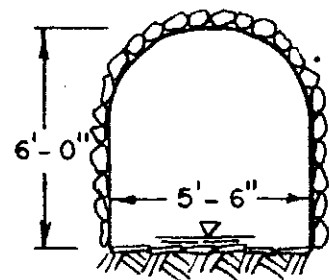
0+00 to 3+78.75
378'-9" Long
Cut stone base
Unfinished cut stone walls
Slate stream bed

(B)



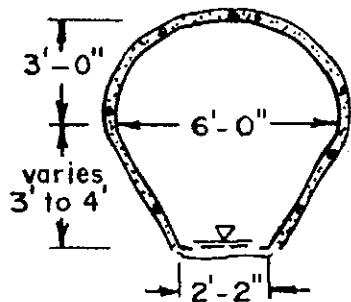
3+78.75 to 4+45.50
68'-9" Long
Mortared stone walls
Brick arch
Slate stream bed

(C)



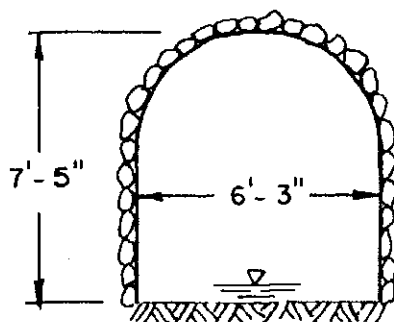
4+45.50 to 6+93.00
247'-6" Long
Mortared stone walls
15' section at approx. 6+80.00
with slate bedrock walls
Slate stream bed

(D)



6+93.00 to 8+49.00
156'-0" Long
Concrete trough and walls
Trough bottom worn away
exposing slate bedrock

(E)



8+49.00 to 11+40.50
291'-6" Long
Concrete trough and walls at 8+49.00
Stone walls and arch at 11+40.50

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NEW YORK STATE
DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORTATION
COHOES-WATERFORD ARTERIAL
Culvert Cross-Sections

PIN 1088.02 SCALE 1" = 200' DATE JUNE 1983 SHEET NO 9